

U.S. Serial No.: 10/798,522
Docket No.: 2156-612A

Examiner: E. Wong
Art Unit: 1753

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application, claims 1, 2, and 4-11 have been amended, and new claims 12-17 have been added. The specification has also been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is believed to have been added by virtue of these amendments.

Claim Objections

Claims 5-7 and 11 were objected to because of various informalities. In response, Applicant has amended claims 5-7 and 11 in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

In response, Applicant has amended the claims to correct the defects noted by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite is respectfully requested.

In particular, Applicant has characterized the carbon dispersion as having first carbon black particles having various attributes indicating high conductivity and second carbon black particles not having these attributes thus indicating that they are conventional carbon black particles. Applicant believes that this amendment more clearly defines the claims and clears up any issues with respect to the definiteness of the claims. Support for this change can be found in the specification, for example at page 6, line 24 through page 7, line 2 in which Applicant characterizes the differences between conventional and highly conductive carbon blacks.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Carano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,440,331) in combination with Bele et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,235,182) and Minten et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,619,741).

Applicant notes that claim 7 was not included in the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Because it appears that the Examiner may have inadvertently left it out, Applicant has included a discussion of this claim in his remarks.

The Examiner asserts that the combination of Carano, Bele and Minten describes all of the features of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

While Carano describes a composition containing one or more types of conductive particles, Carano does not describe or suggest a carbon black dispersion that combines highly conductive carbon black particles (first carbon black particles) and conventional carbon black particles (second carbon black particles).

As indicated in Applicant's disclosure (page 7, lines 6-9) it has been found that blending the conventional carbon black particles and the highly conductive carbon black particles together is desirable due to the difficulty of dispersing highly conductive carbon black particles in an aqueous media.

Bele does not cure the deficiencies of Carano because Bele also does not describe or suggest a combination of carbon black particles in the manner described and claimed by Applicant. While Bele describes highly conductive carbon black particles, Bele does not describe or suggest combining the highly conductive carbon black particles with other carbon black particles that are not highly conductive.

Furthermore, Minten also does not describe or suggest a combination of carbon black particles in the manner described and claimed by Applicant.

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For all of these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carano in view of Bele and Minten is respectfully requested.

As indicated above, Applicant has added new claim 12 that is also believed to distinguish over the prior art of record. New claim 12 is directed to a carbon black dispersion that consists essentially of highly conductive carbon black particles having various attributes (first carbon black particles), conventional carbon black particles that do not have these attributes (second carbon black particles), one or more dispersing agents, an alkali metal hydroxide, and water.

In contrast, Carano specifically requires that compositions of their invention contain a second conductive material, and describes a composition that contains electrically conductive carbon black particles, a second conductive material, a dispersing agent and a dispersing medium. Thus Carano does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention. Bele and Minten do not cure the deficiencies of Carano because, as discussed above, Bele and Minten do not describe or suggest a composition that contains both conventional and highly conductive carbon black particles in the manner described and claimed by Applicant.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is requested. Applicants believe that claims 1-17 are now in condition for allowance and an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

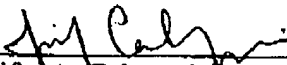
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If the Examiner perceives of any reason why such allowance should not be granted he is requested to contact the undersigned at (203) 575-2648 for a telephonic interview prior to issuance of the next office action.

Respectfully submitted,

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